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SI SA KET

TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND



Si Sa Ket Province

Cover: Sa Kamphaeng Noi Sanctuary



A Si Sa Ket girl in the Dok Lamduan Festival

Si Sa Ket was originally called Muang Khu Khan. Archaeologists believe the city dates back to the time of the Khmer empire because of the presence of many Khmer ruins. Legend has it that Muang Khu Khan used to be called Si Nakhon Lamduan and was situated at what is now Ban Prasat Si Liam Dong Lamduan, Tambon Tuan Yai, King Amphoe Wang Hin in the province. The town was upgraded to a city in 1759 when Ayutthaya was Thailand's capital. The first governor was Luang Kaeo Suwan who was promoted to Phra Krai Phakdi. During the reign of His Majesty King Rama V, Muang Khu Khan was relocated to Muang Si Sa Ket (Ban Muang Kao, Tambon Muang Nua, Amphoe Muang in the present day) but the city still retained the name of Khu Khan until 1938 when it was renamed Si Sa Ket Province.

Boundaries

North	Borders Yasothon and Roi Et provinces.
South	Borders Dong Rak Mountain Range which divides Thailand and Cambodia.
West	Borders Surin Province.
East	Borders Ubon Ratchathani Province.

Si Sa Ket Province has a total land area of 8,839 square kilometres. It is divided into 13 Amphoe (districts) and 4 King Amphoe (lesser districts) as follows:

Amphoe Muang, Amphoe Kantharom, Amphoe Kantharalak, Amphoe Rasi Salai, Amphoe Uthumphon Phisai, Amphoe Khun Han, Amphoe Phrai Bung, Amphoe Prang Ku, Amphoe Yang Chum Noi, Amphoe Huai Thap Than, Amphoe Khu Khan, Amphoe Non Khun, Amphoe Si Rattana, King Amphoe Bung Bun, King Amphoe Nam Kliang, King Amphoe Wang Hin, and King Amphoe Phu Sing.



How to Get to Si Sa Ket

By Car From Bangkok, take Highway No. 1 (Phahonyothin Road) and turn onto Highway No. 2 (Mittraphap Road) at Saraburi Province. Then take the Chok Chai-Det Udom road (Highway No. 24) pass Buri Ram and Surin and turn left onto Highway No. 220 to Amphoe Muang Si Sa Ket. The total distance is approximately 571 km.

By Bus From Bangkok, buses of the Transport Co. leave the Northern Bus Terminal (Talat Mo Chit) daily. The traveling time is about 8 hours. For details, please contact Tel. 2710101-5 (regular bus) and Tel. 2794484-7 (air-conditioned bus) or joint



*Khao Phra Vihear Sanctuary, 98 km. from Si Sa Ket
Khmer art design from laterite and sandstone at Sa Kamphaeng Yai Sanctuary*

private-public buses run by Siri Rattanaphon Co. (Tel. 2791976) and Kitchakan Ratchasima Co., (Tel. 2712390).

By Train From Bangkok Railway Station (Hua Lamphong) there are regular, rapid and express trains on the Bangkok-Si Sa Ket route, covering a distance of 551 km. Please contact the Travel Service Section, State Railway of Thailand at Tel. 2237010 and 2237020.

In addition, there are buses running between Amphoe Muang Si Sa Ket and other districts and nearby provinces. Transportation within the city is also possible by hiring a tricycle.

Distances from Amphoe Muang to Other Districts

To -	Amphoe Kantharom	26 km.
	Amphoe Kantharalak	60 km.
	Amphoe Khu Khan	49 km.
	Amphoe Rasi Salai	39 km.
	Amphoe Uthumphon Phisai	25 km.
	Amphoe Khun Han	61 km.
	Amphoe Prang Ku	60 km.
	Amphoe Phrai Bung	43 km.
	Amphoe Yang Chum Noi	60 km.
	Amphoe Huai Thap Than	39 km.
	Amphoe Non Khun	70 km.
	King Amphoe Si Rattana	43 km.
	King Amphoe Bung Bun	41 km.
	King Amphoe Wang Hin	35 km.
	King Amphoe Phu Sing	74 km.
	King Amphoe Nam Kiang	46 km.



Mat Mi silk from Ban Tae



The Lamduan flower, the provincial flower of Si Sa Ket

Tourist Spots

Somdet Phra Sri Nakarin Park

The park is situated in the Si Sa Ket Agricultural College on Kasikam Road, Tambon Nong Khrok, Amphoe Muang. It is about 2 km. from the provincial hall.

Somdet Phra Sri Nakarin Park Si Sa Ket was built by the people of Si Sa Ket and the Ministry of Education to celebrate the 60th birthday anniversary of H.R.H. The Princess Mother. Approximately 237 rai (379,200 sq. metres) of the Si Sa Ket Agricultural College was used for the park which is a natural forest area and the only forest in Thailand that has a dense concentration of **Lamduan** flowers, giving the forest a pleasant aroma from February to April. The Lamduan flower is a plant of historical significance for Si Sa Ket as it gave the city its old name of "**Si Nakhon Lamduan**." Now only a small lake, Bung Si Nakhon Lamduan, bears this name. The park has over 30,000 Lamduan trees. When they blossom at the same time, the forest turns soft yellow and the Lamduan leaves impart a sweet smell that lasts for months. Thus, the Lamduan flower is regarded as the provincial flower of Si Sa Ket.

Apart from being a water source, the park is the only one in Thailand that has managed to conserve a natural forest for botanical and ecological studies. The park is also active in wildlife conservation such as wild hens and rabbits.

Somdet Phra Sri Nakarin Park consists of a Lamduan forest, a parking lot, restaurants, a swimming pool, grass fields, a playground, rest pavilions, and souvenir shops selling local products which should appeal to out-of-city visitors. There is also a boat rental service and a campsite (for more details, contact the Department of Non-Formal Education at Tel. 2800890).

Wat Sa Kamphaeng Noi Stone Sanctuary

The sanctuary is situated at Ban Klang, Tambon Khayung, Amphoe Muang Si Sa Ket, 87 km. from the city center. It is on the right-hand side of the Si Sa Ket-Uthumphon Phisai road (Highway No. 2084). The sanctuary has a Prang (padoda) and a chapel made of laterite. A large pond is in front of the pagoda. The pond, the pagoda and the chapel are all encircled by a laterite wall. A lintel of Phra Warun, the god of rain, was once above the doorway. Inside, the god was carried by 3 swans.

The Papuan-style sanctuary was believed to have been built in the 10th century. The sanctuary might have been a place for religious ceremonies when it was first constructed, but renovated or altered in the 12th century during the reign of King Chai Woraman VII as can be seen from traces of Bayon architecture. The sanctuary was called "Arokhasayan" then, meaning a hospital or a communal resting place.

Wat Sa Kamphaeng Yai Sanctuary

This sanctuary is located at Ban Kamphaeng, Mu 1, Tambon Kamphaeng, 1 km. from Uthumphon Phisai District Office. From Amphoe Muang, it can be reached via Highway No. 2084 and No. 226 after about 18 km. Some 50 metres further on, there is an asphalt road branching off on the left-hand side. The sanctuary here is in Wat Sa Kamphaeng Yai which was built afterwards.



The sanctuary is Si Sa Ket's largest Khmer stone structure. There are 3 pagodas on the same base from north to south and facing west. The middle building is the main pagoda made of sandstone and some bricks. The other 2 pagodas are made of bricks with some sandstone decorations such as a lintel and doorway frame. Behind the southern pagoda stands another brick pagoda and in front there are 2 brick chapels surrounded by a crooked porch of laterite and sandstone. Doorways face all 4 directions. The main pagoda features a lintel of the god Indra on an elephant. The brick pagoda to the north has a lintel of the god Narai lying on a pedestal over a Naga. The pagoda to the south has another lintel of the gods Shiva and Uma seated. The sanctuary is currently under the care of the Division of Archaeology of the Fine Arts Department. Countless artifacts have been unearthed, including a lintel of the god Narai, Buddha images and prints, etc.

From the designs on the lintels and artifacts, especially on the main doorway, it can be deduced that the sanctuary was built in the 12th century in the Papuan-style of Khmer art as an offering to the god Shiva. The compound was transformed into a monastery of the Mahayana sect of Buddhism in the 14th century.

Ban Prasat Sanctuary

This important historical site is in Tambon Muang Chan,

The shady atmosphere of Somdet Sri Nakarin Park



Samrong Kiat Waterfall in Amphoe Khun Han

Amphoe Uthumphon Phisai.

To reach the sanctuary, take Highway No. 2084 for about 20 km. Upon reaching the intersection, turn left to Amphoe Uthumphon Phisai and proceed to Amphoe Huai Thap Than, then turn right. The sanctuary is in Wat Ban Kamphaeng.

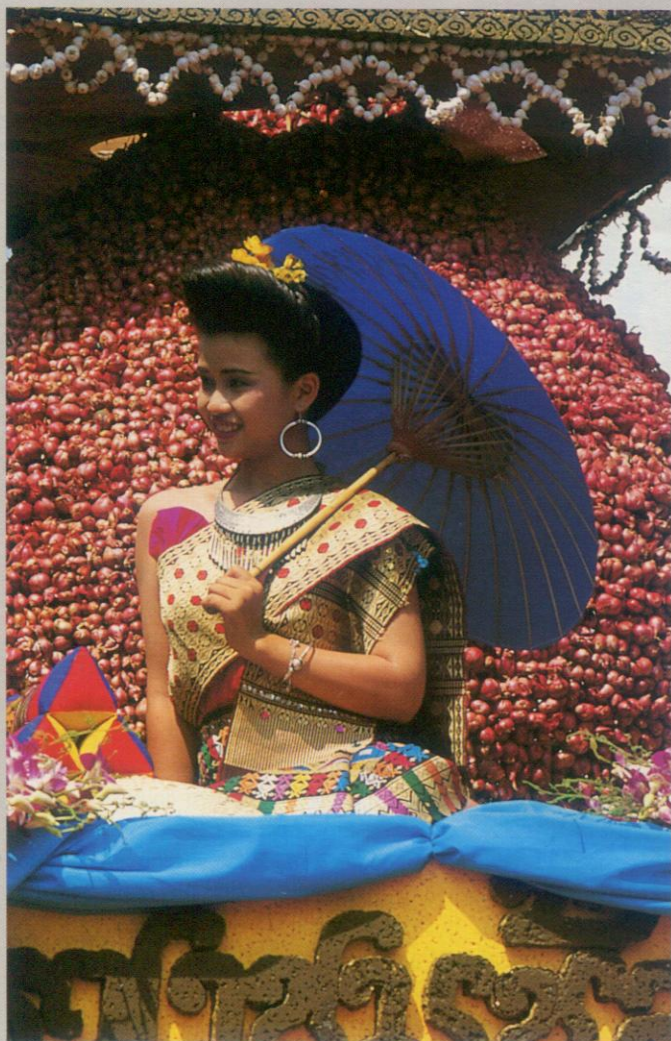
Ban Prasat Sanctuary is a Khmer-style structure that was later modified much in the same way that Prasat Si Khoraphum of Surin Province was, particularly the roofs which are very similar, though the one at Ban Prasat is higher. The sanctuary comprises 3 brick pagodas on the same laterite base north to south surrounded by a wall. There is also a doorway which is the only one remaining (in the south) out of 3 or 4 believed to have been constructed. The doorway is made of laterite.

The middle pagoda is slightly larger than the other two but has a lower roof. The pagoda has retained its perfect square form through the centuries. There is a single doorway facing east with a sandstone door frame and a lintel of human figures. It is not possible to tell who the figures are supposed to be.

The two adjacent pagodas are of roughly the same size but have been considerably altered, with the roofs and the walled-in doorways the most striking. However, they still have sandstone doorways and part of a lintel on the ground in front of the southern pagoda's doorway. The style of the lintel infers that Ban Prasat Sanctuary was built in the 10th Century in the post-Papuan Khmer-style architecture and was later reconstructed.

Prang Ku Sanctuary

Prang Ku Sanctuary is in Ban Ku, Amphoe Prang Ku, about 10 km. from the district center. The pagoda there is made of large bricks just like Si Khoraphum Sanctuary in Surin which



A beautiful participant in the Dok Lamduan Festival procession

is an ancient Khmer sanctuary over 1,000 years old. A large pond about 1 km. long is directly in front of Prang Ku and is a favorite feeding ground for large flocks of birds.

Ban Samo Stone Sanctuary

Located at Mu 2, Tambon Samo, Amphoe Prang Ku, Ban Samo Stone Sanctuary is approximately 10 km. to the southeast of Prang Ku Sanctuary. The sanctuary has several important components which are:

Pagoda

The pagoda is built of laterite and is square in shape. It is 4.47 metres wide. It has fake doorways in 3 directions; the one facing south has a lintel over it. There is also a print attached to the pagoda.

Chapel

This is another laterite structure of 3.25 x 7.10 metres and is located at the southeastern part of the wall. A doorway faces west.

Wall

Built of laterite, it is 25 x 35 metres and has a doorway in the shape of an "X."

Phrom Wihan Waterfall

A beautiful waterfall of Amphoe Khun Han, Phrom Wihan Waterfall has an extremely pleasant environment with an assortment of trees and flowers, a perfect place for relaxation. The waterfall has water all year round. A high cliff, Phrom Wihan Cliff, near the fall gives tourists panoramic views of the surrounding area. The waterfall is easily accessible. Tourists can take a road passing Huai Chan Waterfall and continue for 10 km. before reaching it. It is about 22 km. from Amphoe Khun Han.

Ta Leng Sanctuary

Prasat Ta Leng is at Mu 6, Ban Prasat, Tambon Kantharom, Amphoe Khu Khan and can be reached via Highway No. 220, turning right at Amphoe Khu Khan past a police station, continue on for 3 km. Upon reaching the intersection, turn left and drive for 16 km. until at Ban Prasat, then turn right. The sanctuary is on the right.

Ta Leng Sanctuary is a single pagoda on a square base facing east. Today, only the front and parts of the side remain. There is one real doorway while the other three are fake. The highlight of the pagoda is the door columns which are

elaborately carved. There are several lintels lying on the floor around the doorway. One lintel which is in front of the northern doorway depicts the god Indra on an elephant in a glass pavilion and holding a lei in both hands. The rest of the lintels have similar designs, one featuring hermits in 7 different meditation postures.

Judging from the architecture and art of the sanctuary, it is believed Ta Leng Sanctuary was built during the Khmer Papuan art period, or around 1017-1087.

Phrai Bung Waterfowl Pond

The pond is at Ban Sawai, Tambon Phrai Bung, Amphoe Phrai Bung. Take Highway No. 221 for 20 km., then turn right onto Highway No. 2111 for another 20 km. The pond will be on the left. There is also another waterfowl pond at Ban Ku, Amphoe Prang Ku. This pond is in front of Prang Ku. A man-made pond of laterite, numerous waterfowls feed here during the dry season.

Samrong Kiat or Pisat Waterfall

This medium-sized waterfall is about 8 metres high. The water here cascades down through many levels to a clear pool below, ideal for swimming. The surrounding area is shady with vines and tropical flora. The waterfall can be reached by Highway No. 2111, turning left at Amphoe Khum Han onto a dirt road for 16 km.

Huai Chan or Kanthrom Waterfall

Located in Tambon Kanthrom, 24 km. from Amphoe Khun Han, this waterfall is covered with various tropical plants. Small pavilions provide excellent resting spots. A road leads directly to this beautiful waterfall.

Tamnak Sai Sanctuary

Tamnak Sai Sanctuary is located in Ban Tamnak Sai, Tambon Mat Dong, Amphoe Khun Han. From Amphoe Muang Si Sa Ket, take Highway No. 220 past Amphoe Khu Khan, then turn left on to Route 24 till the Amphoe Khun Han-Ban Samrong Kiat intersection. An alternative way is to take Route 2127 and turn right for 20 km. or 1 km. before reaching Ban Samrong Kiat.

Tamnak Sai Sanctuary is a single brick structure on a sandstone base. Extensive landscaping has made the grounds clear and clean. The square sanctuary is 4 x 4 metres with a only one doorway which faces east (the front). The other 3 doorways are fake ones, the likeness of a door being carved on the bricks, only the door frames are made of sandstone. The sanctuary used to have a lintel of the god Narai with his queen Laksami at his feet



Folk play in the Dok Lamduan Festival

and the god Phrom emerging from his navel, with more figures of hermits and persons in a glass pavilion. This lintel is now housed in Phimai National Museum. Tamnak Sai Sanctuary is a religious place of the Brahman religion and was built during 967-1017.

Mo I Daeng Cliff

The cliff is in Amphoe Kantharalak. Take Highway No. 221 past the intersection to Amphoe Kantharalak to the south. It is 80 km. from Amphoe Muang and 34 km. from Amphoe Kantharalak. The road to the cliff is the same steep route to Khao Phra Vihear in Cambodia. Upon reaching the foot of the mountain, a walk of 200 metres to the cliff is required. Mo I Daeng Cliff is the closest vantage point to view Khao Phra Vihear which is 1 km. away. At the southern face of the cliff which is below, there is what is believed to be the oldest bas-relief in Thailand dating from the 9th Century.

Annual Festival

Dok Lamduan Festival

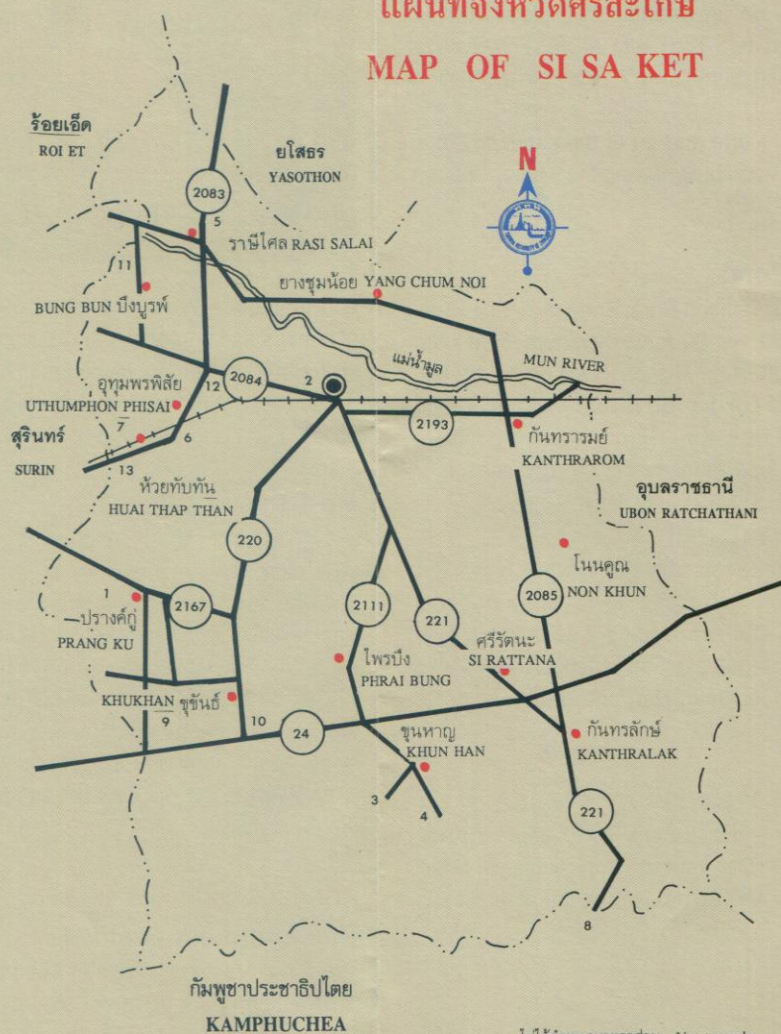
The festival is held in March of every year at Somdet Phra Sri Nakarin Park in order to publicize the arts and culture of Si Sa Ket. From early March to late April, Lamduan flowers are in full bloom and give off a sweet aroma that covers the entire park. The festival features cultural performances, exhibitions and shops selling local products of Si Sa Ket and nearby provinces.

This leaflet is for information purpose only.

The contents of the publication are subject to change without notice.

Information Development Section
Tourist Service Division

แผนที่จังหวัดศรีสะเกษ MAP OF SI SA KET



TOURIST ATTRACTIONS แหล่งท่องเที่ยว

1. ปราสาทปรางค์ PRASAT PRANG KU
2. ปราสาทหินวัดสระกำแพงน้อย PRASAT HIN WAT SAKAMPHAENG NOI
3. น้ำตกห้วยจันทร์ HUAI CHAN WATERFALL
4. น้ำตกสำโรงเกียรติ SAMRONG KIAT WATERFALL
5. สวนลิงบ้านห้วย MONKEYS AT BAN WAN
6. ปราสาทหินวัดสระกำแพงใหญ่ PRASAT HIN WAT SAKAMPHAENG YAI
7. ปราสาทบ้านปราสาท PRASAT BAN PRASAT
8. ปราสาทเขาพระวิหาร PRASAT KHAO PHRA VIHARA
9. เกวียนน้อยบ้านใจดี SMALL CARTS AT BAN CHAI DI
10. คุนน้อยบ้านสะอาง BASKETWORK AT BAN SA-ANG
11. มัดหมี่บ้านเปือย MAT MI SILK CLOTH AT BAN PO
12. มัดหมี่บ้านแค MAT MI SILK CLOTH AT BAN TAE
13. ลายปักทองห้าง HAND WOVEN CLOTH AT BAN NONG HANG